

FORMALITIES

Applicants again respectfully bring to the Examiner's attention that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed with the application on July 18, 2000. Accordingly, the Applicants request that in his next action, the Examiner consider the single reference contained therein and provide the Applicants with a copy of the Form PTO-1449 that has been duly initialed.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Claims 1 and 9 have been amended.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. The Applicants, however, respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTION

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,486,971 to Kawamoto ("Kawamoto" or the "Kawamoto Reference"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the above amendments and for reasons detailed below.

In his Response to Arguments, the Examiner asserts that, FIGs. 5 and 6 of Kawamoto teach an image enlarging process following write processing of image data to a single FIFO memory and read processing of image data from a single FIFO memory and, furthermore, teach image reducing processing by writing image data to a single FIFO memory after magnification process. The Kawamoto reference, however, does not teach, mention or suggest that variable magnification processing is carried

out independently in a scan direction and a cross-scan direction. Indeed, Kawamoto teaches away from independent processing. For example,

the interval between main scanning lines is determined by controlling the interval of generating the synchronizing signal for the main scanning direction. That is, the magnification ratio for the sub scanning directions is changed by controlling the interval of generating the synchronizing signal for the main scanning direction. When the interval of generating the synchronizing signal for the main scanning direction is increased, the image is enlarged, and when the interval of generating the synchronizing signal is reduced, the image is reduced.

Kawamoto, col. 7, lines 1019 (Emphasis added). That is, the variable magnification processing is realized by setting the interval of lines in the sub scanning direction in accordance with the interval of generating the synchronizing signal for the main scanning direction. Thus, magnification processing in the sub scanning direction, according to Kawamoto, is not performed independently from that of the main scanning direction. Moreover, for Kawamoto, the magnification ratio for the sub scanning direction is the same as that for the main scanning direction.

Furthermore, Kawamoto discloses that, when enlarging the image, image data of one line of the main scanning are stored once in the FIFO memory, and then the image data stored in the FIFO memory are read from the memory device at a speed according to a magnification ratio. When reducing the image, image data are first processed according to a magnification ratio, and then the image data are written. FIG. 3 of the Kawamoto reference also shows a first and second enlarging/reducing process devices 53a and 53b, which are arranged, respectively, upstream and downstream of the memory interface device.

An advantage of independent processing is that

it is possible to carry out variable-magnification processing of image data in the cross-scan direction at a constant input speed, without altering the speed with which image data is [sic, are] captured, despite a change in magnification ratio.

Specification, page 8, lines 20-24. This is neither taught, mentioned nor suggested by the Kawamoto reference.

The Applicants, therefore, believe that claims 1 and 9 are not anticipated by the Kawamoto reference and, further, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 100, et seq., especially § 102(e). As such, the Applicants believe that claims 1 and 9 are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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